

Florida State University's Julie Brown, left, spikes through the arms of Tennessee defenders, but the Lady Seminoles suffered a 12-15, 12-15, 15-1, 15-10, 15-8 loss to the Lady Vols in the first round of the NCAA Division I women's volleyball championships Sunday night at Tully Gym.

Democrat photo by Mark Wadheiser



## Lady Seminoles fall to Tennessee

By DAVID WHITLEY

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It just wasn't Florida State's weekend to meet orange-clad opponents.

The Tennessee Lady Volunteers rallied from two games down to beat the Lady Seminoles Sunday night 12-15, 12-15, 15-1, 15-10, 15-8 in the first round of the NCAA women's volleyball championship at Tully Gym.

"I don't know what happened," said FSU Coach Cecile Reynaud. "Sometimes a team comes out warmed up, and it may take a team like Tennessee a couple of games to get going."

Once the Lady Vols got going though, there was no holding them back.

FSU won the first game on the strength of a four-point run that gave it a 7-2 lead. From there the Lady Seminoles held off a couple of Tennessee surges that twice closed their lead to one point, and put the game away when Tennessee's April Chapple couldn't return Donna Krai's serve.

The second game was close until FSU's Julie Brown blocked Chapple's attempted spike to give the Lady Seminoles the lead for good at 12-11.

FSU won the next two points and ended the game when a Tennessee player was called for carrying the ball on the return of serve.

During the break, Tennessee Coach Bob Bertucci made some major adjustments in Tennessee's attack.

"It wasn't exactly the panic button, but it was pretty close to it," he said.

"FSU had an advantage in that we hadn't seen them play all year and Cecile had a chance to scout us in advance," he said. "We seemed over-

matched the first two games and their girls were executing very well."

Bertucci said FSU was keying on Lady Vol All-American Robin Maine, thereby throwing the Tennessee team out of sync.

"She's dominated almost all teams we've played," he said. "FSU was really was minimizing her effectiveness."

The Lady Vols came out for the third and potentially final game looking loose and confident. Once the game began, their confidence blossomed while FSU's wilted.

"At the beginning of the third game we couldn't pass the ball well," Reynaud said. "Usually teams don't ace us, but Tennessee did and it frustrated our offense."

Tennessee roared to a 10-0 lead before the Lady Seminoles could score a point.

It was their only one, though, as the Lady Vols closed it out behind the thundering spikes of Chapple and All-American Beverly Robinson, who combined for 53 kills.

"The only thing that kept us in the game early was April Chapple," Bertucci said. "She probably played her best match of the year."

It looked like the rout was on as Tennessee jumped to a 7-1 lead in the fourth game. FSU wouldn't give up though, and the Lady Seminoles scratched back behind the play of Karyn Palgut and Sally Summer.

Spurred by the crowd of 513, FSU closed the lead to 11-9. Then, with FSU serving, Chapple sent a ball screaming out of bounds to apparently cut to lead to only one.

The side judge ruled a Lady Seminole touched the ball, though, and the Lady Vols got the ball and ran their lead to 14-9.